

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act

Earlier this week, I traveled to Brooklyn Law School to attend a DVSJA Roundtable for prosecutors.

What is the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, or the DVSJA?

The DVSJA allows the court to sentence or resentence a domestic violence survivor who suffered sexual, psychological or physical abuse that contributed to his or her conviction if certain, specific criteria are met.



Because Monroe County leads the state on DVSJA applications, I shared my experience and expertise on the methods we use to handle these cases. This can range from fully supporting a resentencing, to opposing the hearing for consideration. With over 30 DVSJA applications so far, we have seen a variety of these cases.



In Monroe County, when a legitimate, complete application comes into our office, we have a simple roundtable discussion led by the Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, Assistant District Attorney Patrick Gallagher. We also consult the Willow Domestic Violence Center or another representative from the Domestic Violence Consortium. We review the application materials, the

original case file, consult the individual's attorneys and ask follow-up questions. Every application for DVSJA sentencing is treated individually, with its own set of facts and circumstances. We discuss our support or opposition of the applications and what a fair and disposition of the case looks like.

Homicide Update

So far in 2023:

City of Rochester Total:
10

Monroe County Total: 13

The DVSJA has been instrumental in changing the lives of domestic violence survivors. It gives the court another tool to work with the complexities of domestic violence cases.

At the roundtable, I gave prosecutors from across New York State case examples and the realities and challenges that come with these applications.

I am proud that the Monroe County District Attorney's Office leads the way on DVSJA and I continue my commitment to prioritizing survivors of domestic violence.

Sandra



Arraignment of Shawn Jordan

39-year-old **Shawn Jordan** was arraigned in Rochester City Court on one count of Disseminating Indecent Material to Minors in the 1st Degree, a Class D Felony, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a Class A Misdemeanor. Both charges are non-qualifying offenses for purposes of bail. Shawn Jordan is employed with the Rochester Police Department. A No Contact Order of Protection was issued for the victim by Rochester City Court Judge Lopez.

These charges stem from an investigation conducted by the New York State Police. The New York State Police felony complaint alleges that Shawn Jordan engaged in a Facebook Messenger Video and Audio Chat communication with a 16-year-old female while exposing himself and acting in a lewd manner.

Shawn Jordan's next court date will be May 3, 2023, in Rochester City Court. This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Special Victims Unit. This is an ongoing investigation. If anyone has any information related to Shawn Jordan, please call 585-398-4100.



Highlights from the MCDA's Office

30-year-old **Michael Parnell** was sentenced by Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger to 23 – 26 years in the New York State Department of Corrections, plus 5 years of post-release supervision. Michael Parnell was previously convicted by a Monroe County jury of Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 1st Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for triple shooting at a strip club on Anderson Avenue. On July 17, 2021, Rochester Police Officers responded to “The Barrel,” a strip club on Anderson Avenue where they found two men shot outside and one man shot inside the club. Michael Parnell was identified as the shooter of all three men, and after a thorough investigation, Parnell was located and arrested on August 29, 2021. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Chief of the Public Integrity & Economic Crime Bureau.

A Monroe County Jury convicted 33-year-old **Douglas Smith** of Murder in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the murder of 16-year-old Manuel Rivera. On August 7, 2021, around 7:20PM, Douglas Smith approached a cookout at a residence on Hague Street in the City of Rochester. A stranger to those at the cookout, Douglas Smith engaged in a verbal altercation. Johnny Rodriguez, a guest at the cookout, stepped in, both men drew their illegally possessed pistols, and engaged in a gun battle. 16-year-old Manuel Rivera, an innocent attendee at the party, was shot and killed by Douglas Smith. After a swift and thorough investigation, the Rochester Police Department arrested both Douglas Smith and Johnny Rodriguez for Manuel Rivera’s murder and for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. Johnny Rodriguez was only indicted for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and pled guilty to the indictment on March 13, 2023, the day before trial. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robin Catalano, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, also of the Special Investigations Bureau. Douglas Smith will be sentenced on May 30th, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano. Johnny Rodriguez will be sentenced on July 10, also in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano.

The trial of the **People vs. Piero Scala** continues into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Robertson, Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Unit and Assistant District Attorney Kristina Hinkley, of the Domestic Violence Bureau. The defendant is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 5th Degree in relation to the death of Cathy O’Brien. This case is in front of Monroe County Court Judge Miller.

The trial of the **People vs. Isiah Williams** continues into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Harrigan, Chief of the General Felony Bureau. The defendant is charged with Attempted Aggravated Murder of a Police Officer, Menacing a Police Officer, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in front of Monroe County Court Judge Vacca.

The trial of the **People vs. Gareth Barry** continues into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ralph Alloco, of the Special Victims Unit. The defendant is charged with Aggravated Sexual Abuse in the 2nd Degree in front of Monroe County Court Judge Hahn.

The trial of the **People vs. Anthony Dixon** continues into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, also of the Special Investigations Bureau. Anthony Dixon is charged with Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree. This case will be in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi.

The trial of the **People vs. Michael Williams** continues into next week. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Janna Koch, of the Felony DWI Bureau. The defendant is charged with Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated With a Child Passenger, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Argento.

Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley joined County Executive Adam Bello, Sheriff Todd Baxter, Mayor Malik Evans and Rochester Police Department Chief David Smith at the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Hosted by Chamber CEO Bob Duffy, we spoke to business leaders throughout the City of Rochester about crime, statistics, and perception. This was a productive conversation and I look forward to continuing these important discussions!



Hillel Community Day School

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley was proud to attend the 75th Annual Scholarship Dinner for Hillel Community Day School. The Hillel Community Day School is an egalitarian, private, and pluralistic Jewish Day School for students from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade. Congratulations to this year's honorees, the very deserving Dr. Yosef Kilimnick and Dr. Suzie Karan. A special thank you to Slagana Mitris for the kind invitation.



Open Door Mission – Hope Lives

Tune into Rochester's Open Door Mission show and podcast, Hope Lives, Saturday and Sunday at 4pm on WYSL. I was proud to talk about the crime in our community and how it relates to substance abuse disorder.

You can also listen to the show now by following the link:

<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-ae9db-13c1f6d>!



MCDA in the News

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/three-sentenced-for-handy-street-murder-in-rochester/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/three-men-sentenced-in-2021-handy-street-murder>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/rochester-police-officer-arrested-accused-of-exposing-himself-to-a-minor/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-sentenced-for-2021-triple-shooting-at-rochester-strip-club>

<https://nydailyrecord.com/2023/03/23/shooter-sentenced-in-monroe-county-court/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-convicted-of-murdering-teen-in-2021-hague-street-shooting>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/rochester/shooter-convicted-in-rochester-teens-hague-street-murder/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/trial-begins-for-man-accused-of-killing-webster-woman-in-2019>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/man-accused-of-2019-murder-in-webster-to-appear-in-court-monday-morning/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-police-officer-accused-of-disseminating-indecent-material-to-16-year-old-girl>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/rpd-officer-arrested-for-sending-indecent-material-to-minor/>



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.